The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 4, NO. 49 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1915. WHOLE NO. 205

ANTI-ALIEN LAW IS LEGAL

Citizens Only Have Right to Public Funds.

HAVE CONTROL OF THEIR MONEY

Decision Declares that State, Like Any Private Individual, Can Select Its Employes.

Albany, N. Y. March 6.—The court of appeals has ruled that this state has the right to pass a law debarring the employment of aliens on public works. The decision involves thousands of non-citizens employed on subway work in New York city.

The case came before the court of last resort in this state because of the arrest of contractors on the work who were charged with violating the law.

The court said in part:

"The moneys of the state belong to the people of the state. They do not belong to aliens. The state, through its legislators, has given notice to its agents in building its public works it wishes its own moneys to be paid to its own people and, if not to them, then, at least, to citizens of the United States.

"Those who are not citizens are not members of the state. To disqualify citizens from employment on the public works is not officially discriminating. It is arbitrary discrimination, for the principle of discrimination is the result of the state. Ungenerous and unwise such discrimination may be. It is not for that reason unlawful.

"The power of a state to discriminate between citizens and aliens in the distribution of its resources is illustrated not by decisions of the courts and by long continued practice. Neither aliens nor the citizens of other states are invested by the Constitution with any interest in the common property of the people of this state. The common property of the state belongs to the people of the state and to the individuals to whom that property the citizens may be preferred.

"To better the condition of its own citizens, and it may be to prevent injury to them among them, the legislature has decided that the moneys of the state shall go to the people of the state. Equal protection does not mean that those who have no interest in the common property of the state must share in the distribution on the same terms as those who have an interest or assume the purpose of the statute is to discriminate in the distribution of the public wealth in favor of the citizens.

"In its war against poverty the state is not required to dedicate its own resources to citizens and aliens alike. It may discriminate against aliens and citizens in relief work, as also it may discriminate in employment. To be employed by the state on public works and to receive payment out of the public purse is, I think, a privilege rather than a right.

"The argument is made that discrimination between citizens and aliens may increase the cost of public works by limiting the supply of labor, and is therefore unconstitutional. The primary and direct purpose is legal, and the payment does not become illegal because a remote and secondary purpose may be to protect a large class of the community against the peril of pauperism.

"It is not enough that this statute may seem to us to be impolitic or oppressive. It is not enough that in its making great and historic traditions of hospitalities have been violated. It is not for us to pass judgment upon the wisdom of the legislature. Our duty is done when we ascertain that it has kept within its power."

SAFETY AFTER WAR.

Philadelphia, March 6.—"If there was ever a time when America would be safe, it is during the generation following this war," declared Dr. Jesse Holmes, of Swarthmore college, in a speech in this city. The speaker declared that when the war is over the victor will be in slightly less degree of condition than the conquered, and only the sheerest stupidity could imagine designs on the United States at such a time.

"If, as is claimed, every generation should have a war to develop bravery and manly attributes," he said, "why not have wars between states or cities within our country, and let the nations in our borders be highest to be gainers of these traits instead of letting an other country have half the benefit in better men."

ANTI-UNIONISTS WORRIED.

Terre Haute, Ind., March 4.—The old adage, "Misery is long liked," is realized by unionists and their sympathizers in this city as jitneys make inroads in the dividends of the local street car company, which started out some time ago to "smash" the unions on street car men. The city was one of the first to feel the lash a jitney service, which is making it possible for unionists to administer a boastisement to the anti-unionist corporation that its daily income is affected to such an extent securities are taken a dangerous tumble. In fact, retribution is so swift and emphatic that officials of the company say that the situation is serious and financial difficulties probable if the unionists refuse to forget and forgive.

DEADLY MINE EXPLOSION.

Hinton, W. Va., March 6.—It is believed nearly 200 miners have lost their lives in the Layland mines of the New River and Pocahontas Consolidated Coal company through an explosion. The usual announcement is made that "the Layland mines were well equipped and inspections during the past month failed to show the presence of any gas." This is the second explosion within a month in this district. Last month 39 miners lost their lives in the Carlisle mine, near Fayetteville.

FAVORS UNION'S SYSTEM.

Boston, March 6.—Before the board of arbitration, the conciliation board demands of the Bay State railway employes, Elwin I. Morse, a motorman, said he did not believe in the present situation for faithful, continuous service. He favored the union plan of 30 cents an hour for the first year and 35 cents an hour thereafter.

MACHINISTS STRIKE SETTLED.

Worcester, Mass., March 6.—The strike at the Reliance Shop has been settled with a complete victory for the machinists, who have been granted recognition of their union as a result. Several new machinists are now joining the organization.

MACHINISTS REDUCE HOURS.

Rochester, N. Y., March 6.—Two eight-hour union shop agreements have been signed by the machinists in this city. Wages have been increased from $2.50 to $3 hours' work to 210.30 for 48 hours' work. Trade laws stimulated organization.

P. O. MEN GET PROMOTIONS

Washington, March 6.—The attempt of the postoffice department to economize by depriving clerks, railway mail clerks and letter carriers of wage increases during the next fiscal year has been defeated. The Senate committee on post roads voluntarily withdrew its objectionable amendment, which sought to withhold this year's salary promotions and to make subsequent promotions dependent upon two years in each grade instead of one year.

This victory for the postoffice workers means that 35,000 men will receive a $100 wage increase for the next fiscal year. It was achieved largely because of the protests of the state and local bodies affiliated to the American Federation of Labor which, at the request of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks and Brotherhood of Railway Postal Clerks, made vigorous protest to senators. The senate promptly responded to these requests by voting down the eliminating amendment, without debate or discussion, the proposal to legislate.

The senate further inserted an amendment in the postal appropriation bill to restore their former salaries to letter carriers who were unjustly demoted. The post office department, in violation of the letter and spirit of the law, has been reducing letter carriers $130 annually. This grievance was called to the attention of the postmaster general during a conference by President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, Representative Buchanan, of Illinois, and Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks. When the department failed to act an appeal was made to congress, and the senate voluntarily inserted the amendment, compelling a restoration of the salaries.

WOMEN'S WORK LAW UPHELD.

Washington, March 6.—Again has the United States Supreme court declared a state legislature can specify trades or callings in which women may work only certain number of hours without violating those sections of the federal constitution which provides for liberty of contract and against "unreasonable discrimination."

The court reaffirmed this position in the case of a California law which limits the hours of women workers to eight per day, but which excepts canneries and farms.

In answer to the claim that the law prohibits "liberty of contract" the court held in effect, that the liberty of contract guaranteed by the constitution is freedom from arbitrary restraint and not immunity from reasonable regulation to safeguard the public interest.

The court also held that legislatures have the right to specify "certain callings" even though, said the court, "it is possible by analysis to discover inequalities" in the application of things embraced within any specified class.

MINE OWNERS TO "UPLIFT."

Denver, March 6.—Colorado mine owners will enter the "uplift" business for the benefit of employes, and several "club houses" will be erected, according to President Welborn of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, which imported strikebreakers and private detectives in their efforts to crush miners to compel this, and other concerns to obey the state's mining laws. Welborn says that the recent strike cost the operators $1,250,000, and he closes his "uplift" announcement with this rather vague statement:

"Although our mine employes were generally speaking satisfied with working conditions at the time the strike was called, and had been for many years prior thereto, I know I am safe in saying that they are better satisfied and have a more friendly feeling toward the company today than they ever had before."

FAVORS RESTRICTION.

Boston, March 6.—Discussing the various phases of immigration problems Thomas N. Carver, professor of economics at Harvard university, said:

"I have no fear of not being able to speak any time listening to those, no matter how high they may be in the council of state or nation, who favor the open door to labor and then oppose restricted immigration. It is a great thing to talk about opening our gates to the down and out, but it appears that the appeal of the pocketbook is still stronger than the appeal to sympathy, and therefore I am inclined to hold them responsible for conditions until they clear their skirts."

WEAKEN LABOR DEPARTMENT.

Albany, N. Y., March 6.—A joint resolution has been introduced in the state senate to place the state department of labor under the secretary of state. This official shall have the power to appoint two deputies who shall succeed the commissioner of labor, an office now held by James M. Lynch, ex-president of the International Typographical union.

The proposed bill will make the department of labor but an adjunct to the secretary of state's office.

GRAND JURY WON'T INDICT.

New York, March 6.—No one will be punished for the wreck on the elevated railway in this city on Christmas, which cost the lives of two passengers. The grand jury refused to indict any of the officials or directors of the state department had been held in $500 bail by Coroner Hendon on charges of criminal neglect in connection with the road's affairs. The grand jury also stated that it would not indict employes of the company.

WOMAN'S LAW PASSED.

Trenton, N. J., March 6.—Gov. Fielder has signed a law which makes the personal belongings of a married woman in this state her sole and separate property. Formerly the belongings of a married woman, even when they were given to her husband, have been liable to attachment for debts of her husband. Under the new law this is impossible.

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR.

Peoria, Ill., March 6.—Trade unionists in this city are opposing the plan of commercial interests in the state to have the state legislature for permission to install broom making machinery in the local workhouses.

MOVIE MEN ORGANIZE.

Syracuse, N. Y., March 6.—Moving picture operators in this city have organized and affiliated to the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes.

OPPOSE STATE POLICE.

Brooklyn, N. Y., March 6.—The Central Federated union of this city has adopted strong resolutions against the establishment of a state constabulary.

CONGRESS PASSES THE SEAMEN'S BILL—FREEDOM TO LEAVE SHIPS ASSURED

Washington, March 6.—The seamen's bill has passed both the house and senate, and with the signature of the President one of labor's longest and hardest fights for remedial legislation will have come to a successful end. It will also remove one more complaint in Labor's Bill of Grievances, presented in 1906, and which will then only include restriction of immigration and repeal of convict labor.

As a result of differences between the two houses over the seamen's bill, a joint committee drew up a compromise, which was accepted by the House of Representatives February 23, and by the Senate, February 27.

The bill is an advance in improving conditions of seamen. One of the most notable is abolishing imprisonment as a penalty for quitting work on any vessel of the United States in a foreign port and relieving consular agents of the United States from serving as man hunters. The new law guarantees freedom to the seaman and ends a century-old practice by extending to the foreign trade the benefits of the law of 1898 which abolished involuntary servitude in the domestic trade and in the trade to nearby foreign countries.

Another important change extends to the vessel or owner of the vessel the same liability for damages as the present law imposes on the master of the vessel for failure to provide. Local authorities as well as other officer of the vessel who has been guilty of inflicting corporal punishment on any of the crew during the voyage.

Other provisions of the law provide:

Hours of labor in port limited to nine except in emergencies. Sunday and unnecessary work prohibited.

Right to demand and receive in part one-half of pay when earned, together with right of release from contract and to receive full pay if half pay due is refused. This provision applies to foreign vessels in ports and waterways of the United States. Together with other sections of the bill this will equalize the cost of operation between domestic and foreign vessels, in so far as wages are concerned.

Seamen in foreign trade will have the right to demand, upon application by a majority, inspection of vessel as to sea worthiness. Existing law requires such application must be joined in by at least one of the officers.

"Crimping" is abolished by prohibiting payment of advance wages or allotments to original creditor in ports of the United States, applicable to foreign as well as domestic vessels. Allotments to wife and dependent relatives in the coastwise and foreign trade are permitted. This section will also serve to equalize the cost of operation between foreign and domestic vessels.

Seventy-five per cent of the crew in each department must be able to understand the orders of officers. The departure of a vessel is conditional upon existence of this section. This section will also equalize the cost of operation between foreign and domestic vessels, and was strongly opposed by the shipping trust as it marks the end of competition by American sailors with the Oriental.

Three years' service on deck is required to obtain the rating of able seamen at sea, 18 months on lakes, bays and sounds.

Better sanitation and hospital provisions on vessels is provided.

Safety for passengers and crew is improved.

Section 20 provides that the doctrine of fellow-servant shall not apply in damage suits between seamen and officers.

Opening of the bill claim it is a "violation of treaties." Sections 16 and 17 provide for the abrogation or amendment of treaties that conflict with the law. Provision is made that these changes shall be made in regard to foreign countries only on the terms of such treaties. The bill also provides for the repeal of such federal statutes as permit the arrest and imprisonment of foreign seamen quitting work on a vessel within the jurisdiction of the United States.

By this method the advantage that foreign vessels now have over American vessels in the cost of operation in coming to and leaving ports of the United States will be destroyed. It will also have a tendency to equalize wages of all seamen engaged in overseas commerce.

ASKING FOR HIGHER WAGES.

Chicago, March 6.—Before the arbitration board in session here, the case of requests of western engineers and firemen, General Manager Trenholm of the Santa Fe railroad, opposed the engineers' claim that engineers and firemen shall not be required to throw switches or do flagging. The railroad official insisted that the work was "insignificant," and could be done by others.

The workers' representatives replied that in below-zero weather, after a fireman had shoveled six or eight tons of coal, if he is obliged to leap from his cab into the freezing atmosphere and walk some distance to throw a switch or wave a flag it may endanger his health.

The general manager answered "Oh, I don't think it would hurt the fireman."

Mr. Trenholm expressed much concern over the stockholder and insisted that "the roads were eternally asking for too much."

"If we can show you that capital has received less than 10 per cent on all it has invested in railroads, will you approve the requested increases?" inquired Grand Chief Stone of the engineers.

Mr. Trenholm hesitated, and then said:

"I hardly think that such a thing would be fair, and I do not think I do not see how it would have any bearing on the present case."

PAROLE SYSTEM A SUCCESS.

San Francisco, March 6.—The California parole system is a "splendid success," reports state prison officials to Governor Johnson, who is told that:

"Experience has demonstrated its value in weaning men away from crime and restoring them to the ranks of self-supporting and self-respecting citizens. There are 764 prisoners on parole from both prisons. Ninety-seven per cent of the men paroled in the two years are classed as failures. Not only 4 per cent committed new crimes."

Fresh air treatment, ventilated cells, increased exercise and improved medical attention have caused a large improvement in the health of the prisoners, it is reported.

PLEADS FOR SHORTER HOURS.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 6.—In an address on the necessity of shorter hours, Rev. Robert E. Goodrich, of this city, said:

"The toilers of the world must be given shorter hours for work. Much has already been gained in some branches of industry, but shocking injustice still abounds in many directions. Fewer hours and one day's rest out of seven is the divine decree of the church in America for the laboring men."

PRESENT NEW AGREEMENT.

Allentown, Pa., March 6.—The two unions of carpenters in this city have presented new agreements to contractors, same to take effect May 1. The new rate provides for a wage increase of 2½ cents an hour. The present rate is 35 cents. Fifty hours shall be the week from April 1 to December 1. Overtime at the rate of time and one-half and double time for Sundays and Christmas, Fourth of July and Labor day.

Federal Investigators Condemn Rockefeller, Jr. Methods

Washington, March 6.—If John D. Rockefeller, Jr., assumed a different attitude toward the Colorado mine strike, the lives of many women and children would have been saved, is one of the indictments against America's richest boy contained in the report of a subcommittee appointed by the House committee on mines and mining to investigate the Ludlow, Colorado, conflict, which was submitted. The minority favored the entire matter being "referred" to the department of labor and industrial relations commission.

The majority report was a vigorous denunciation of Mr. Rockefeller, whose so-called philanthropies and charities are stigmatized as "a cloak for subterfuge for his refusal to arbitrate. The federal investigators say:

"Mr. Rockefeller, a large stockholder of the most powerful company in the state, has done a great deal for many of his people in other parts of the country and in foreign lands, spending millions of dollars, but he has not endeavored to improve the conditions of more than 6,000 employes and has not visited the state in ten years.

"Mr. Rockefeller (a long distance director. He may win like a storyteller under the false banner of liberty for the working man, but we do not believe he can maintain peace under such conditions as exist in Colorado.

"Mr. Rockefeller was not a good judge of conditions in Colorado and knew nothing about them. He was obstinate. The strike could have been settled without recognition of the union if he had desired to do so. We believe he did not desire to arbitrate and one must conclude he would rather spend his time golfing, motoring, playing pipe of detectives and mine guards and starve the strikers into submission.

"Absentee owners or directors cannot escape moral responsibility for conditions in and about property in which they are interested."

That the day has gone by for resort to violence in labor disputes, is declared.

"The disturbance in these coal fields is, nevertheless, of vital importance," it was stated. "It is certainly the duty of organized government to prevent, if possible, such troubles. Rights of society are supreme. We cannot too strongly recommend arbitration.

"If these strike troubles continue to break forth it will plainly be necessary for congress seriously whether some method of regulation shall not be adopted with reference to this (coal) business as carried on in interstate commerce, as is now done with reference to transportation."

Regarding the part played by Colorado's militia, striking utterances of the report are made:

"Some of the militiamen seized the opportunity to engage in lawless acts. In other instances there were acts of so immoral kind unfit for publication. Men were thrown into jail and kept there without opportunity of proving their innocence. Even women and children did not escape the brutality of some of the members of the organization.

"It seemed conclusively the militia was on the side of the operators.

"The sooner men armed in the service of the state learn that the men with whom they are brought in contact are human, and even violators of the law, but are still human, the better it will be for the commonwealth.

Strike breakers and mine guards were imported into the state and these were brought into Colorado against the strikers, it was recited. Some mine guards and deputy sheriffs were among the militia.

Adjt. Gen. Chase, of the militia, was called to task for his attitude toward Lieut. Linderfelt, of whom he came in contact."

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Juries were apparently selected to consider seriously whether some methods of the operators were justifiable, such as the indictment of Lieut. Linderfelt for murder in connection with the killing of two strikers who were on trial with deputy sheriffs.

While the report did not specifically place the blame on operators, it contained this significant declaration:

"Constant oppression and neglect and arbitrary conduct of officials of these companies have been the cause of much dissatisfaction which resulted in this disturbance and consequent destruction of life and property."

AN APPRECIATION.

San Francisco, March 6.—Says the Bulletin of this city, in its editorial columns:

"We have given their meed of praise to the President, to the officials, to the directors, to the architects, to the engineers, to Jules Guerin, who translated a symphony into color, to John Mackaren, who tamed wild California nature to aid them all in the work.

"Now, therefore, let us take off our hats to the workingmen who built that exposition in the sweat of their brows and the masterful skill of their hands. In an intimate sense it is their exposition.

"It is a monument to the efficiency of organized labor."

"TAYLOR" SYSTEM DEALT HARD BLOW

CONGRESS WON'T FINANCE PLAN

Refuses to Vote Money for This Purpose.

Organized Labor Wins in Long Fight Against Alleged "Efficiency."

Washington, March 6.—Congress has ordered that no moneys in the army or the naval appropriation bills shall be used on behalf of "Taylor" or other alleged "efficiency" schemes, and the stop watch method of production has received its hardest blow since its advocates conceived the idea that application to production would increase their prestige.

The House had included in the army and naval appropriations bills provisions that no part of these moneys could be used to further "Taylor," stop-watch or premium systems. The Senate rejected these provisions and the bills went to conference. The House conferees were unyielding in their demand that the provision be retained. All other differences were adjusted, but the House stuck for its anti-"Taylor" system section. It was necessary to pass the bills, which provided for millions of dollars for the army and navy the coming fiscal year. The clock ticked seconds that marked the time when this Congress would pass into history, and other important legislation needed attending.

Finally the Senate conferees yielded, and organized labor won another important victory.

AGAINST SCHOOL MILITARISM.

Cincinnati, March 6.—"Organized insanity" was the term used by Dr. Paul Schaeffer, state superintendent of public schools of Pennsylvania, in opposing the theory of militarism in the public schools. The school man said:

"When the demand is made that militarism form an integral part of vocational training, the teacher's distraction reaches a climax. The shoulder succeed in fulfilling this latest requirement, the public schools would develop a race of Amazons more fierce than the militant suffragettes.

"The war brides need as much bodily help and care as the soldiers who marry them if future generations are not to show signs of decadence.

"Investigations have shown that military drill is injurious during the adolescent period. The worst feature of drill for the cadets is not the outcome of drilling or marching, but rather of the hours spent under the direction of the dancing master.

"The moral drainage which results from militarism is the greatest.

"The great powers of Europe have come to judgment and are grinding one another to pieces. Let the United States should be a warning to the American people not to introduce and foster militarism in the public schools."

LABOR TEMPLE FLOURISHES.

Atlanta, Ga., March 6. — Secretary-Treasurer Marks of the Atlanta Labor Temple association has issued a splendid report of labor temple conditions in this city. He says:

"Ten years have opened three years ago to the local unions of the city and practically all of them moved in. Since that time all the indebtedness against the property has been liquidated and for a year it has not owed a penny. During the three years the association has paid back to the stockholders 17 per cent in dividends, the authority is about to return the amount paid for it. During the coming year it is the intention of the association to either erect a new building or add to the present structure."

FREE RIDES IN DISTRICT.

Washington, March 6.—Both the Senate and House have accepted the District of Columbia appropriation bill which includes free rides for firemen and policemen. Provision is also made for the establishment of a trial board regulating charges against firemen. Heretofore one of these public servants could be summarily dismissed without a hearing "for the good of the service." Firemen were especially active in securing this legislation and their valuable assistance was rendered them by A. F. of L. affiliates throughout the country.

"DAY OF REST" LAW UPHELD.

Albany, N. Y., March 6.—The constitutionality of the law requiring to employes in factories and mercantile establishments twenty-four consecutive hours of rest every week has just been upheld by a unanimous decision of the New York state court of appeals.

The decision was rendered in an appeal from the judgment of a Buffalo city court which convicted a packing company of violating the law.

UNIONISM GROWS IN CANADA

Toronto, Ontario, March 6.—"Canadian" trades unionism, favored by employers, is on the decline, while international trades unionism, as exemplified by the American Federation of Labor, is on the increase, is the story told in figures just issued by the government, and which the Industrial Banner dissects as follows:

"Government statistics just to hand clearly demonstrate that, despite the keen industrial depression of the last two years international unionism in Canada continues to make steady headway.

"During 1913 and 1914 the net gain in membership was 42,679.

"It is distinctively encouraging to note that it is only the international unions that are making progress, for while they gained 191 local unions within the period enumerated the nationalist, or purely Canadian movement, had 36 less locals than they possessed two years ago. In 1911 there were 132,132 trades unionists in Canada; the following year this number had increased to 149,130, and for the year ending March, 1914, it had mounted up to 175,709. Out of this number 149,577 were enrolled in the membership of the international organizations, and all non-international unions, including so-called purely independent bodies, could only muster up 26,322. Of these the Canadian Federation of Labor is affiliated, and with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and are given recognition and assistance by the international movement. Other independent bodies are also friendly to the international idea, so that the number of workers affiliated with the purely Canadian bodies are insignificant in number. In fact, the Trades and Canadian Federation of Labor failed to hold its convention last year, and is practically out of existence.

"In Canada all told there are 1,792 local trades organizations, of which 540 are located in Ontario, British Columbia coming next with 240, the balance being divided between the other provinces.

"These figures are very gratifying to the friends of international trades unionism, but they must be distinctively distinguished to those who would like to see Canada divorced from the great labor movement of the continent and have it split up into weak national organizations that have always been found wanting in the hour of need. Apparently the Canadian workers know what they want and are determined it's to be internationalism for theirs."

CALLS REST LAW A FARCE.

Albany, N. Y., March 6.—The state law which provides rest rooms in department stores and compels certain hostile establishments to furnish one seat for every three women employes was declared to be a farce by factory inspectors at a hearing before the legislature.

The law compels you to furnish seats for women, but it doesn't compel you to allow them to sit on them," said Miss Edith Abbott, who was also at the hearing. "In New York city the girls all down at the end of the department store is called a shirker."

"Crocodile tears" was the answer of employers of hostile interests, it was told by these workers. President Dyer, of the New York State Retail Merchants' association, told the senate committee that the increasing legal restrictions on business was one of the reasons for the present hard times."

PENSIONS FOR CITY EMPLOYES.

San Francisco, March 6.—The board of supervisors has indorsed a proposed city charter amendment providing for pensions for city employes. The board says:

"Every man who works for a living is in constant dread of the time when, through old age or disability, he will be helpless and a charge upon others.

"This is especially true of municipal employes, many of whom are paid small salaries from which they are unable to lay aside something as a protection against old age or disability.

"The principle embodied in this amendment is one of simple justice to faithful servants of the public. Surely a man who has spent the best years of his life in the service of the public should have some protection against old age or disability."

The plan has also been approved by the Labor Council.

DISCUSSES ATLANTA STRIKE.

Washington, March 6.—Last week Representative Greene discussed the strike of Atlanta textile workers in the House of Representatives. During the course of his speech he read the contract forced on employes of the Fulton Bag and Cotton mill by the corporation. It is one of the causes of the strike. It permits the company to withhold one week's wages in advance. It will be given to those duties before he quits his employment. The company, on the other hand, can discharge at any time, with or without reason.

PAPERMAKERS TALK STRIKE.

Holyoke, Mass., March 6.—Papermakers employed by the Valley Paper company are talking strike because management refuses to grant the wage requests of women employes in the rag room. These women are making but $7.50 a week, it is said, and are now on strike. The state board of conciliation and arbitration investigated the strike and decided in favor of the strikers, but the company has ignored this decision.

HOSPITAL BILL A LAW.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 6.—Gov. Williams has signed the bill which provides that railroads must provide hospital aid to injured employes without removing them from the state. An unsuccessful attempt at the state legislature this measure has been urged. In 1913 a similar bill was passed by both houses, but was vetoed by Gov. Cruce.

ARREST 8-HOUR VIOLATOR.

Fort Arthur, Tex., March 6.—Trade union officials have finished the grand jury by union carpenters, the contractor in charge of a new school building here being arrested for violating the eight-hour law. The carpenters union, it is announced, will employ counsel to assist in the prosecution of the case.

AGREE TO EARLY CLOSING.

Sioux City, Iowa, March 6.—The early closing campaign conducted by the local central body is proving successful. Every large store but one now has agreed to close at 6:30 each day in the week except Saturday.

BUTCHERS' UNION GROWS.

Dallas, Tex., March 6.—Because of increased membership the union of meat cutters and butcher workmen in this city is forced to secure larger quarters.

STRONG UNION IS A SHIELD

Recent U. S. Supreme Court Decision Discussed.

ECONOMIC POWER OUT DEFENSE

Where Solidly Organized, Unionists Need No Law to Protect Them Against Discrimination.

Washington, March 6.—In The American Federationist, current issue, President Gompers diagnoses the United States Supreme court decision which voided the Kansas law making it illegal to discharge a worker because he belonged to a trade union. The A. F. of L. executive closes as follows:

"Members of well organized, aggressive unions have no difficulty in enjoying their legal right to membership in their trade unions and in securing the right to collective bargaining through which real equity of contract is assured.

"Organization among workers is America, for the fight for freedom and protection. Secure for yourselves that which you ought to have and which you must have, in order to protect your industrial rights. As unorganized strong organizations in all lines of industry, keep in your hands control over the policies, the activities and operations of your organization. Do not surrender the key to industrial liberty for any temporary gain. With a real strong labor organization that is your welfare lies in your own hands, keep up the work of education, agitation and organization.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 6.—The United Mine Workers' Journal, official magazine of the United Mine Workers of America, today discusses the United States Supreme court's decision invalidating the Kansas anti-discriminating law:

"The effect of this adverse decision, nullifying the anti-discriminating laws, it has been our experience that the only way to secure success in protecting union men from discrimination was by our own solidarity.

"Where the workers are organized solidly, or show enough force to command respect, such law is not needed to prevent discrimination on account of union affiliations.

"Where the workers are not organized in numbers to command respect, the law, and every law for that matter, has been a dead letter, as witness the anti-label law of Colorado, in which state similar law to that of Kansas has also been on the statute books, only to be openly violated, with every other law intended to safeguard the workers."

STATE LIABILITY CHEAPEST.

Albany, N. Y., March 6.—The state workmen's compensation commission is resisting efforts by private insurance companies to cripple its fund. Economy by having the state reduce the appropriation for running expenses. At a public hearing in this city it was shown according to the Legislative Labor News:

"That $20,000,000 a year or more is collected in premiums by insurance companies in this state under the compensation law.

"That the state insurance fund does a business of $2,000,000 a year, taken in premiums, at a premium rate now placed at 25 per cent less than insurance companies charge for similar risks. They serve, and is able to pay all its own administration expenses after one year of operation.

"That less than $7,000,000 will cover all the claims awarded under the law in one year.

"That the insurance companies clean up in profits 65 cents out of every dollar collected for compensation insurance in this state.

"That a gigantic conspiracy, subtly staged, is under way to pluck the vitals out of the workmen's compensation law, while retaining intact in the shell all the 'graft' for the insurance companies."

PROVIDES LOW COMPENSATION.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 6.—Pamphlets containing the workmen's state compensation law have been issued from the office of the attorney general with a notice that copies may be forwarded to Gov. Brumbaugh. The schedule of compensation establishes 50 per cent rate. An employer who can satisfy the compensation board that many of his employes are insane if he proves his financial reliability.

Pennsylvania workers are protesting against the low compensation.

At the last convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Philadelphia, the following action was taken to emphatically indorse the establishment of what is now a law giving 55 per cent of the wages paid to those who are to receive awards under compensation laws:

BAKERS STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., March 6.—A strike has followed the discharge of nine union bakers by the Heydt branch of the American Bakery company, which is a strong advocate of the nonunion or so-called "open shop." The company is a believer in "free and independent workmen," and General Organizer Schmidt, of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' union, tells why.

"Fifty men were employed in the Heydt bakery," says this unionist. "Thirty-five of them were bakers and were receiving $18 a week. Helpers received from $12 to $16 a week; bench hands, $10 to $14; dough mixers, $16.50; and foremen, $25 a week. Helpers received from $8.50 to $9.50 a week. These are the wages paid. Below the union scale for eight hours."

ALIENS MUST CEASE WORK.

New York, March 6.—Officers of the General Contracting company, which has been awarded the work on the new $300,000,000 subway system, in this city, announced today that no aliens would be employed pending a decision of the United States Supreme court on the ruling by the state of appeals that the state law forbidding the employment of aliens on contract work is constitutional.

BAKERY LICENSE DEFEATED.

Boston, March 6.—The house of representatives rejected a bill to provide that bakeries hereafter established in the city shall be licensed by the board of health. One advocate of the measure said it was necessary to keep track of these places and told of one bakery which is putting plaster of paris in bread in order to make the loaves weigh more.

TO ORGANIZE WOMEN.

San Francisco, March 6.—At the semi-annual convention of the Pacific district, No. 1, Retail Clerks' International Protective association it was decided to inaugurate a campaign of organization among women clerks. An effort will be made to establish a uniform week-end and shopping agreement for all clerks in California.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 4, NO. 49 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1915. WHOLE NO. 205

ANTI-ALIEN LAW IS LEGAL

Citizens Only Have Right to Public Funds.

HAVE CONTROL OF THEIR MONEY

Decision Declares that State, Like Any Private Individual, Can Select Its Employes.

Albany, N. Y., March 6.—The court of appeals has ruled that this state has the right to pass a law debarring the employment of aliens on public works. The decision involves thousands of non-citizens employed on subway work in New York city.

The case came before the court of last resort in this state because of the arrest of contractors on this work who were charged with violating the law.

The court said in part:

"The moneys of the state belong to the people of the state. They do not belong to aliens. The state, through its legislators, has given notice to its agents in handling its public works it wishes its own names to be paid to its own citizens and, if not to them, then, at least, to citizens of the United States.

"Those who are not citizens are not members of the state. To disqualify citizens from employment on the public works is not officially discrimination. The arbitrary discrimination, for the principle of discrimination is the intention of the state. Ungenerous and unwise such discrimination may be. It is not for that reason unlawful.

"The power of a state to discriminate between citizens and aliens in the distribution of its resources is recognized alike by decisions of the courts and by long continued practice. Neither aliens nor the citizens of other states are protected by the Constitution with any interest in the common property of the people of this state. The common property of the state belongs to the people of the state and in the distribution of that property the citizens may be preferred.

"To better the condition of its own citizens and it may be to prevent pauperism among them, the legislature has decided that the moneys of the state shall go to the people of the state. Equal protection does not mean that those who have no interest in the common property of the state must share in the distribution on the same terms as those who have an interest. I assume the purpose of the statute is to discriminate in the distribution of the public wealth in favor of the citizens.

"In its war against poverty the state is not required to dedicate its own resources to citizens and aliens alike. It may discriminate against aliens and citizens in relief work, so also it may discriminate in employment. The work employed by the state on public works and to receive payment out of the public purse is, I think, a privilege rather than a right.

"The argument is made that discrimination between citizens and aliens may increase the cost of public works by limiting the supply of labor. That is entirely unconstitutional. The primary and direct purpose is legal, and the payment does not become illegal because the incidental and secondary purpose may be to protect a large class of the community against the peril of pauperism.

"It is not enough that this statute may seem to be impolitic or even oppressive. It is not enough that in its making great and historic traditions of generosity may have been departed from; not assume to pass judgment upon the wisdom of the legislature. Our duty is done when we ascertain that it has kept within its power."

SAFETY AFTER WAR.

Philadelphia, March 6.—"If there was ever a time when America would be safe, it is during the years immediately following this war," declared Dr. Jesse Holmes, of Swarthmore college, in a speech in this city. The speaker said that when the war is over the victor will be in slightly better physical condition than the conquered, and only the sheerest stupidity could imagine designs on the United States at such a time.

"If, as is claimed, every generation should have a war to develop bravery and manly attributes," he said, "why not have war between states or cities within our country and keep our reserve in our borders the highest to be gainers instead of losers? Let the physicians of another country have half the benefit in better men."

ANTI-UNIONISTS WORRIED.

Terre Haute, Ind., March 6.—The old adage regarding "a long face" is realized by unionists and their sympathizers in this city as jitneys make inroads in the dividends of the local street car company, which started out some time ago to "smash" the union of street car men. This city was one of the first in the Wabash jitney service, which is making it possible for unionists to administer disinheritance to the anti-unionist corporation that its daily income is affected to such an extent according to data taken a dangerous tumble. In fact, retribution is so swift and emphatic that officials of the company declare the situation is serious and financial difficulties probable if the unionists refuse to forget and forgive.

DEADLY MINE EXPLOSION.

Hinton, W. Va., March 6.—It is believed nearly 200 miners have lost their lives in the Layland mine of the New River and Pocahontas Consolidated Coal company through an explosion. The usual announcement is made that "the Layland mines were well equipped and inspections during the past month failed to show the presence of gas." This is the second explosion within a month in this district. Last month 20 miners lost their lives in the Cheriot mine, near Fayetteville.

FAVORS UNION'S SYSTEM.

Boston, March 6.—Before the board of arbitration that is considering the demands of the Bay State railway employes, Eben I. Morse, a motorman, said he did not believe in the company proposition for faithful, continuous service. He favored the union plan of 20 cents an hour for the first year and 23 cents an hour thereafter.

MACHINISTS STRIKE SETTLED.

Worcester, Mass., March 6.—The strike in the Whitcomb Blair shop has been settled with a complete victory for the machinists, who have been granted recognition of their union. As a result, scores of machinists are now joining the organization.

MACHINISTS REDUCE HOURS.

Rochester, N. Y., March 6.—Two eight-hour union shop agreements have been signed by the machinists in this city. They have been increased from 50 hours per week to 219.20 for 48 hours' work. The gains have stimulated organization.

P. O. MEN GET PROMOTIONS

Washington, March 6.—The attempt of the postoffice department to economize by depriving clerks, railway mail clerks and letter carriers of wage increases during the next fiscal year has been defeated. The Senate committee on post roads voluntarily withdrew its objectionable amendment, which sought to withhold this year's salary promotions and to make subsequent promotions dependent upon two years in each grade instead of one year.

This victory for the postoffice workers means that 35,000 men will receive a $100 wage increase for the next fiscal year. It was achieved largely because of the protests of the state and local bodies affiliated to the American Federation of Labor which, at the request of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks and Railway Mail Association, Postal Clerks made vigorous protest to senators. The senate promptly responded to these requests from home by eliminating, without debate or discussion, the proposed legislation.

The senate further inserted an amendment in the postal appropriation bill to increase the salaries to letter carriers who were unfairly demoted. The post office department, in violation of the letter and spirit of the law, had been reducing letter carriers $130 annually. This grievance was called to the attention of the senate committee during a conference by President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, Representative Burnham, of Illinois, and Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks. When the department failed to act an appeal was made to congress, and the senate committee promptly adopted the amendment, compelling a restoration of the salaries.

WOMEN'S WORK LAW UPHELD.

Washington, March 6.—Again has the United States Supreme court declared a state legislature can specify trades or callings in which women can work, only a certain number of hours without violating those sections of the federal constitution which provides for "liberty of contract" and against "unreasonable discrimination."

The court reaffirmed this position in the case of a Washington law which limits the hours of women workers to eight per day, but which excepts canneries and farms.

In answer to the claim that the law prohibits "liberty of contract" the court held, in effect, that the liberty of contract guaranteed by the constitution is "subject to arbitrary restraint and not immunity from reasonable regulation to safeguard the well being of women."

The court also held that legislatures have the right to classify trades or callings, even though "said [the court] "it is possible by analysis to discover inequalities as to some persons or things embraced within any specified class."

MINE OWNERS TO "UPLIFT."

Denver, March 6.—Colorado mine owners will enter the "uplift" business for the benefit of employes, and several "club houses" will be erected, according to President Welborn, of the Victor Fuel and Iron company, which imported strikebreakers and private detectives to resist efforts of the United Mine Workers of America to obey the state's mining laws. Mr. Welborn says the remark, "uplift" has a new meaning. "$1,250,000, and he closes his "uplift" announcement with this rather vague statement:

"Although our mine employes were generally speaking satisfied with working conditions at the time the strike was called, and had been for many years prior thereto, I know I am safe in saying that they are better satisfied and have a more friendly feeling toward the company today than they ever had before."

FAVORS RESTRICTION

Boston, March 6.—Discussing the various phases of immigration restriction, Thomas N. Carver, professor of economics at Harvard university, said:

"I have no law for nor can I spend any time listening to those, no matter how high they may be in the council of state or nation, who profess love for labor and then oppose restricted immigration. It is a great thing to talk about opening our gates to the world, but it appears that the appeal of the pocketbook is still stronger than the appeal to sympathy, and therefore I have no desire to hold them responsible for conditions until they clear their skirts."

WEAKEN LABOR DEPARTMENT.

Albany, N. Y., March 6.—A joint resolution has been introduced in the state legislature to place the state department of labor under the control of state. This official shall have the power to appoint two deputies who will replace the commissioner of labor, an office now held by James M. Lynch, ex-president of the International Typographical Union.

The proposed bill will make the department of labor but an adjunct to the secretary of state's office.

GRAND JURY WON'T INDICT.

New York, March 6.—No one will be punished for the wreck on the elevated railway in this city on December, which cost the lives of two passengers. The grand jury refused to indict any of the officials or directors of the company who had been held in $500 bail by Coroner Riordan on charges of culpable neglect in connection with the wreck. The grand jury also stated that it would not indict employes of the company.

WOMAN'S LAW PASSED.

Trenton, N. J., March 6.—Gov. Fielder has signed a law which makes the personal belongings of a married woman in this state her sole property, it is announced. Formerly the belongings of a married woman, coming to her as a gift through her husband, have been liable to attachment for debts of her husband. Under the new law this is impossible.

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR.

Peoria, Ill., March 6.—Trade unionists in this city are opposing the plan of convict labor introduced in the state legislature for permission to install broom making machinery in the local workhouse.

MOVIE MEN ORGANIZE.

Syracuse, N. Y., March 6.—Moving picture operators in this city have organized and affiliated to the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes.

OPPOSE STATE POLICE.

Brooklyn, N. Y., March 6.—The Central Labor union of this city has adopted strong resolutions against the establishment of a state constabulary.

CONGRESS PASSES THE SEAMEN'S BILL—FREEDOM TO LEAVE SHIPS ASSURED

Washington, March 6.—The seamen's bill has passed both the house and senate, and with the signature of the President one of labor's longest and hardest fights for remedial legislation will have come to a successful end. It will also remove one more complaint in Labor's Bill of Grievances, presented in 1906, and which will then only include restriction of immigration and regulation of convict labor.

As a result of differences between the two houses over the seamen's bill, a joint committee drew up a compromise, which was accepted by the House of Representatives February 25, and by the Senate, February 27.

The bill is an advance in improving conditions of seamen. One of the most notable is abolishing imprisonment as a penalty for quitting work on any vessel of the United States in a foreign port and relieving consular agents of the United States from serving as mail hunters. The new law guarantees freedom to the sailor and ends a century-old practice by extending to the foreign trade the benefits of the law of 1898 which abolished involuntary servitude in the domestic trade and in the trade to nearby foreign countries.

Another important change extends to the vessel or owner of the vessel the same liability for damages as the present law imposes on the master of the vessel for failure to surrender to the peace authorities any other sailor charged with being guilty of inflicting corporal punishment on any of the crew during the voyage.

Other provisions of the law provide:

Hours of labor in port limited to nine, except in emergencies. Sunday and unnecessary work prohibited.

Right to demand and receive in part one-half of pay when entitled to another port. Right of forfeiture of contract and to receive full pay if half pay due is refused. This provision applies to foreign vessels in ports and waters of the United States. Together with other sections of the law, it equalizes the conditions of operation between domestic and foreign vessels, in so far as wages are concerned.

Seamen in foreign trade will have the right to demand, upon application by a majority, inspection of vessel as to crew, working gear and provisions, and such application must be joined in by at least one of the officers.

"Shipping" is abolished by prohibiting payment of advance wages or allotments to original creditor in ports of the United States, applicable to foreign as well as domestic vessels. Allotments to near and dependent relatives in the coastwise and foreign trade are permitted. This section will also serve to materialize the cost of operation between foreign and domestic vessels.

Seventy-five per cent of the crew in each department must be able to understand the orders of officers. The departure of a vessel is conditional upon obedience of this section. This section will also equalize the cost of operation between foreign and domestic vessels, and was strongly opposed by the shipping trust, as it marks the end of competition by American sailors with the Oriental.

Three years' service on deck is required to obtain the rating of able seamen at sea, 18 months on lakes, bays and sounds.

Better sanitation and hospital provisions on vessels is provided.

Safety for passengers and crew is improved.

Section 20 provides that the doctrine of fellow-servant shall not apply in damage suits between seamen and officers.

Opponents of the bill claim it is a "violation of treaties." Sections 14 and 17 provide for the abrogation or amendment of treaties that conflict with the law. Provision is made that these changes shall be made in regular order and in accordance with the terms of the treaties. Under the law there will be no repeal of such federal statutes as permit the arrest and imprisonment of foreign seamen quitting work on foreign vessels within the jurisdiction of the United States.

By this method the advantage that foreign vessels now have over American vessels in the cost of operation, in so far as wages are concerned, will be overcome by bringing wages of the United States will be destroyed. It will also have a tendency to equalize wages of all seamen engaged in overseas commerce.

ASKING FOR HIGHER WAGES

Chicago, March 6.—Before the arbitration board that will decide the wage requests of 4,000 engineers and firemen, General Manager Trenholm of the Illinois railroad, opposed the workers' claim that engineers and firemen shall not be required to throw switches or do flagging. The railroad official insisted that the work was insignificant, and could be done by firemen. The workers' representatives replied that in below-zero weather, after a fireman had shoveled six or eight tons of coal, he is obliged to leap from his cab into the freezing atmosphere in order to change the position of a switch or wave a flag it may endanger his health.

The grand manager answered: "Oh, I don't think it would hurt the fireman."

Mr. Trenholm expressed much concern over the stockholder and insisted that "the unions were eternally asking for more money."

"If we can show you that capital is receiving less than 6 per cent on all it has invested in railroads, will you approve the request of the brotherhoods as to wage increase?" inquired Grand Chief Stone of the engineers.

Mr. Trenholm hesitated, and then said:

"I hardly think that such a thing could be shown, and if it could be, I do not see that we have any bearing on the present case."

PAROLE SYSTEM A SUCCESS.

San Francisco, March 6.—The California state board of "system in prisons," reports state prison officials to Gov. Johnson, who is told that:

"Experience has demonstrated its value in weaning men away from crime and restoring them to the ranks of self-supporting citizens. There are 764 prisoners on parole from the prisons. Twenty-four per cent of the men paroled in the two years are classed as failures, but only 4 per cent committed new crimes."

Fresh air treatment, ventilated cells, increased baths and increased medical attention have caused a large improvement in the health of the prisoners, it is reported.

PLEADS FOR SHORTER HOURS.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 6.—In an address on the necessity of shorter hours, Rev. Robert E. Goodrich, of this city, said:

"The toilers of the world must be given shorter hours for work. Much has already been gained in some branches of industry, but shocking injustice still abounds in many directions. Twelve hours and one day's rest out of seven is the demand of the church in America for the laboring men."

PRESENT NEW AGREEMENT.

Allentown, Pa., March 6.—The two unions of carpenters in this city have presented new agreements to contractors, same to take effect May 1. The new rate provides for a wage increase of 2½ cents an hour. The present rate is 35 cents. Fifty hours shall be the work week from April 1 to December 1. Overtime at the rate of time and one-half and double time for work on Sunday, Christmas, Fourth of July and Labor day.

Federal Investigators Condemn Rockefeller, Jr., Methods

Washington, March 6.—If John D. Rockefeller, Jr., assumes a different attitude toward the Colorado mine strike, the lives of many men, women and children would be saved, declared one of the indictments against America's richest young man in a report of a subcommittee appointed by the House committee on mines and mining to investigate the Colorado strike. Two reports were submitted. The minority favored the entire matter being "referred" to the department of justice and industrial relations commission.

The majority report was a vigorous denunciation of the Rockefeller system so-called philanthropies and charities are stripped bare and who is condemned for his refusal to arbitrate. The federal investigators say:

"Mr. Rockefeller, a large stockholder of the most powerful company in the state, has done a great deal for uplift of people in other parts of the country and in foreign lands, spending millions of dollars, but he has not endeavored to improve the conditions of more than 5,000 employes and has not visited the state in ten years.

"Mr. Rockefeller is a long distance director. He may win a strike by starvation under the false banner of liberty for the working man, but we do not believe he can maintain peace under such conditions as exist in Colorado.

"Mr. Rockefeller was not a good judge of conditions in Colorado and knew nothing about them. He was obstinate. He could have been reasonable. Without recognition of the union if he had desired to do so. We believe he did not know that the union had in its include he would rather spend the money of the company for guns, day of defense, than cards and starve the strikers into submission.

"A benefit system under directory cannot escape moral responsibility for conditions in and about property in which they are interested."

That the day has gone by for resort to violence in labor disputes was declared:

"The disturbance in these coal fields is nation-wide in importance. It was stated, 'It is certainly the duty of organized government to prevent, if possible, such disorders.' Rights of society are supreme. We cannot too strongly recommend arbitration.

"If these strike troubles continue to break forth it will plainly be necessary to consider seriously whether some legislation shall not be adopted to deal with reference to this (coal) business as carried on in interstate commerce, as is now done with reference to transportation."

Regarding the part played by Colorado's militia, striking utterances of the report were:

"Most of the militiamen seized the opportunity to engage in lawless acts. In other instances there were acts of an immoral kind unfit for publication. Men and women could have been arrested without opportunity of proving their innocence. Defenseless women and children did not escape. Some of the militia were some of the members of the organization.

"It seemed conclusively the militia was on the side of the operators.

"The sooner men armed in the service of the state learn that the men with whom they deal may be poor and ignorant, but they nevertheless are men, that are still human, the better it will be for all concerned."

Colorado mine workers and mine guards were imported and, twelve machine guns brought into Colorado against the strikers, it was recited. Some mine guards and deputy sheriffs were among the militia.

Adjt. Gen. Chase, of the militia, was said to have been "overbearing with all whom he met," and Lieut. Col. Linder, Jurist, were apparently selected in violation of law and "packed" against the strikers, it was said, on trial with deputy sheriffs.

While the report did not specifically place the blame on operators, it contained this significant declaration:

"Constant oppression and neglect and arbitrary conduct of officials of these (coal) companies were prolific causes of the conditions existing prior to the disturbance and consequent destruction of life and property."

"TAYLOR" SYSTEM DEALT HARD BLOW

CONGRESS WON'T FINANCE PLAN

Refuses to Vote Money for This Purpose.

Organized Labor Wins in Long Fight Against Alleged "Efficiency."

Washington, March 6.—Congress has ordered that no moneys in the army or the naval appropriation bills shall be used on behalf of "Taylor" or other alleged "efficiency" schemes, and the stop watch method of production has received its hardest blow since its advocates conceived the idea that government sanction would increase their prestige.

The clause, which included in the army and naval appropriations bills provisions that no part of these moneys could be used to further "Taylor," stop-watch or premium systems. The Senate rejected these provisions and the bills went to conference. The House conferees were unyielding in their demand that the provisions be retained. All other differences were adjusted, but the House stuck for its anti-"Taylor" system section. It was necessary to pass the bills, which provided for millions of dollars for the army and navy for the coming fiscal year. The clock ticked seconds that marked the time when this Congress would pass into history, and other important legislation needed attention.

Finally the Senate conferes yielded, and organized labor won another important victory.

AN APPRECIATION

San Francisco, March 6.—Says the Bulletin of this city, in its editorial columns.

"We have given their meed of praise to the President, to the officials, to the directors, to the architects, to the engineers, to Juleo Altrurth, who composed a symphony into color, to John MacLaren, who tamed wild California nature to aid them all in the work.

"Now, therefore, let us take off our hats to the workingmen who built these exposition in the sweat of their brows and the masterful skill of their hands. In an intimate sense it is their exposition.

"It is a monument to the efficiency of organized labor."

AGAINST SCHOOL MILITARISM.

Cincinnati, March 6.—"Organized insanity" was the term used by N. C. Schaeffer, state superintendent of public schools of Pennsylvania, in opposing the theory of militarism in the public schools.

The state official said:

"When the demand is made that militarism form an integral part of vocational training, the teacher's distraction reaches a climax. If she should succeed in fulfilling this latest requirement, the public schools would develop a race of Amazons more fierce than the militant suffragettes.

"The war brides need as much bodily help and vigor as the soldiers who marry them if future generations are not to show signs of decadence.

"Investigations have shown that military drill is injurious physically to a certain period, and that the gracefulness of the cadet is not the outcome of drilling or marching, but rather of the hours spent under the direction of the dancing master.

"The moral drainage which results from militarism is still greater.

"The advocates of militarism have come to judgment and are grinding one another to dust and ashes. Their fate should be a warning to the American people not to introduce and foster militarism in the public schools."

LABOR TEMPLE FLOURISHES.

Atlanta, Ga., March 6.—Secretary-Treasurer Marks of the Atlanta Labor Temple association has issued a glowing report of labor temple conditions in this city. He says:

"The doors were opened three years ago. The building is free of debt and practically all of them moved in. Since that time all the indebtedness against the property has been liquidated and for a year it has not owed a penny. During the three years the association has paid back to the stockholders 17 per cent in dividends and the property is worth almost double what it cost to put it. During the coming year it is the intention of the association to either erect a new building or add to the present structure."

FREE RIDES IN DISTRICT.

Washington, March 6.—Both the Senate and House have accepted the District of Columbia appropriation bill which provides for an increase in firemen and policemen. Provision is also made for the establishment of a trial board regulating charges against firemen. Heretofore one of these public servants could be summarily dismissed without a hearing "for the good of the service." Firemen were especially active in securing this legislation and report valuable assistance was rendered them by A. F. of L. affiliates throughout the country.

"DAY OF REST" LAW UPHELD.

Albany, N. Y., March 6.—The constitutionality of the law securing to employes in factories and mercantile establishments a twenty-four consecutive hours of rest every week has just been upheld by a unanimous decision of the New York state court of appeals.

The decision was rendered in an appeal from the judgment of a Buffalo city court which convicted a packing company of violating the law.

UNIONISM GROWS IN CANADA

Toronto, Ontario, March 6.—"Canadian" trades unionism, favored by employers, is on the decline, while international trades unionism, as exemplified by the American Federation of Labor is on the increase, is the story told in figures just issued by the government and which the Industrial Banner dissects as follows:

"Government statistics just to hand clearly demonstrate that, despite the keen industrial depression of the last two years international unionism in Canada continues to make steady headway.

"During 1913 and 1914 the net gain in membership was 22,000.

"It is distinctively encouraging to note that it is only the international unions that are making progress, for while they gained 13 local unions within the period enumerated the nationalist, or purely Canadian movement had 26 less locals than they possessed two years ago. In 1911 there were 132,132 trades unionists in Canada; this following year this number had increased to 169,139, and for the year ending March 31, 1914, had mounted up to 175,290. Out of this number 149,577 were enrolled in the membership of the international unions, and all non-international unions combined, including purely independent bodies could only muster up 25,713. The Canadian Federated Letter Carriers are affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, but are purely nationalist in assistance by the international movement. Other independent bodies are also friendly to the international idea, but as the number of organizations looked upon as purely Canadian bodies are so significant in number. In fact, the so-called Canadian Federation of Labor failed to hold its annual meeting this year, and is practically out of existence.

"In Canada all told there are 1,792 local trades organizations, of which 1,623 are located in Ontario, British Columbia coming second with 240, the balance being divided between the other provinces.

"These figures make good reading to the friends of international trades unionism but they must be distinctively disappointing to those who would like to see Canada, divorced from the great labor movement of the American continent and split up into weak national organisations that have only recently been found waving the hour of trial. Apparently the Canadian workers know what they want and have identified it's to be internationalism for theirs."

CALLS REST LAW A FARCE.

Albany, N. Y., March 6.—The state law which provides two hours rest in department stores and compels mercantile establishments to furnish one seat for every three women employes was declared to be a "farce" by women workers at a hearing before the legislature.

"The law compels you to furnish seats for rest, but it doesn't compel you to allow them to sit—unless one shop girl told the merchants at Albany, New York state's shop girl who tries to sit down in a department store is called a shirker."

Crooker Dwyer was the spokesman of employers to the stories of hardships told by these workers. President Dyer of the State Retail Merchants' association assured the committee that the present legal restrictions on business was one of the reasons "for the present hard times."

PENSIONS FOR CITY EMPLOYES.

San Francisco, March 6.—The board of supervisors has indorsed a proposed new charter amendment providing for pensions for city employes after twenty years' service.

"Every man who works for a living is in constant dread of the time when, through old age or disability, he will be incapable of making a livelihood.

"This is especially true of municipal employes, many of whom are paid small salaries, from which they are unable to put aside something as a protection against old age or disability.

"The proposition embodied in this amendment is just, humane and justice to faithful servants of the public. Surely a man who has spent the best years of his life in the service of the people should have some protection against old age or disability."

The plan has also been approved by the Labor Council.

DISCUSSES ATLANTA STRIKE.

Washington, March 6.—Last week Representative Graham discussed the strike of Atlanta textile workers in the House and urged consideration of his resolution which provides for an investigation of the mills in that city. During his speech he read the contract forced on employes of the Exposition Bag and Cotton Mills. This contract is one of the main causes of the strike. It permits the company to withhold one week's wages if a worker fails to give one week's notice before quitting. The textile workers' company, on the other hand, can discharge at any time, with or without reason.

PAPERMAKERS TALK STRIKE.

Holyoke, Mass., March 6.—Paper-makers employed by the Valley Paper company are talking strike because the manager refuses to grant the wage requests of women employes in the rag room. These women are asking for a rate of $7.50 a week and are also on strike. The state board of conciliation and arbitration has investigated the case and decided in favor of the strikers, but the company has ignored this decision.

HOSPITAL BILL A LAW.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 6.—Gov. Cruce has signed the bill which provides that railroads shall furnish hospital aid to injured employes, thus relieving counties of this duty on the state. At practically every session of the state legislature this measure has been introduced. In 1913 a similar bill was passed by both houses, but was vetoed by Gov. Cruce.

ARREST 8-HOUR VIOLATOR.

Port Arthur, Tex., March 6.—Through affidavits furnished the grand jury by union carpenters, the contractor who is erecting the new high school building at Sabine has been arrested for violating the state eight-hour law. The local carpenters' union, it is announced, will employ counsel to assist in the prosecution of the case.

AGREE TO EARLY CLOSING.

Sioux City, Iowa, March 6.—The early closing campaign conducted by the local commercial body has been successful. Every large store but one has agreed to close at 5:30 each day in the week except Saturday.

BUTCHERS' UNION GROWS.

Dallas, Tex., March 6.—Because of increase in membership the union of butchers' helpers and boys' workers in this city is forced to secure larger quarters.

STRONG UNION IS A SHIELD

Recent U. S. Supreme Court Decision Discussed.

ECONOMIC POWER OUR DEFENSE

Where Solidly Organized, Unionists Need No Law to Protect Them Against Discrimination.

Washington, March 6.—In The American Federationist, current issue, President Gompers discusses the United States Supreme court decision which voided the Kansas law making it illegal to discharge a worker because he belongs to a trade union. The A. F. of L. executive closes as follows:

"Members of well organized, aggressive unions have no difficulty in enjoying their legal right to membership in their trade organizations and in securing the right to collective bargaining through which real equity of contract is assured.

"Prepare yourselves, workers of America, for the fight for freedom and protection. Secure for yourselves that which you ought to have; that which you must have in order to protect your industrial rights. As you build up strong organizations in all lines of industry, keep in touch with your fellow workers in their operation of your organizations. Do not surrender the key to industrial liberty for any temporary gain. With a seat made keener by the realization that your welfare lies in your own hands, keep up the work of education, agitation and organization."

Indianapolis, Ind., March 6.—The United Mine Workers' Journal, official magazine of the United Mine Workers of America, expresses this view on the United States Supreme court's decision invalidating the Kansas anti-discrimination law:

"As to the effect of the last decision, nullifying the anti-discriminating laws, it has been our experience that the only way we ever succeeded in protecting union men from discrimination was by our own solidarity.

"Where the workers are organized solidly and through their forces command respect, such law is not needed to prevent discrimination on account of union affiliation.

"Where the workers are not organized in numbers to command respect, the law, and even a law of that nature, has been a dead letter, witness the mining camps of Colorado, in which state similar law as that of Kansas has also been on the statute books, only to be openly violated, while every other law intended to safeguard the workers."

STATE LIABILITY CHEAPEST.

Albany, N. Y., March 6.—The state workmen's compensation commission is authority for the statement that insurance companies to cripple its department by having the state reduce the appropriation for the coming year. An act of public hearing in this city it was shown, according to the Legislative Labor News.

"That $20,000,000 a year or more is collected by insurance companies from employers in this state under the compensation law.

"That the state insurance fund does a business of less than $4,500,000 a year in premiums, at a premium rate now placed at $5 per $100 of payroll. Insurance company rates, is accumulating a big reserve, and is able to pay all its own administration expenses out of the profits of operation.

"That less than $7,000,000 will cover all the claims awarded under the law in one year.

"That the insurance companies clean up in profits 45 cents out of every dollar collected for compensation insurance in this state.

"That a gigantic conspiracy, subtly staged, is under way to pluck the vitals out of the compensation law, while nothing intact in the shell all the 'graft' for the insurance companies."

PROVIDES LOW COMPENSATION.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 6.—Pamphlets containing the proposed state compensation law have been issued from the office of the attorney general with requests that comments be forwarded to Gov. Brumbaugh. The schedule of compensation establishes a 50 per cent rate. An employer who can satisfy the compensation board may carry his own insurance if he proves his financial reliability.

Pennsylvania workers are protesting against the 50 per cent rate.

At the last convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Philadelphia, it was resolved: "We desire the passage of laws for the establishing of rates not less than 66⅔ per cent of the wages paid to those who receive awards under compensation laws."

BAKERS STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., March 6.—A strike has followed the discharge of nine union bakers by the Heydt branch of the American Bakery company, which is a strong advocate of the open, or so-called "open shop." The company is a believer in "free and independent" workers, and General Organiser Schmidt, of the bakers' union, declares:

"Fifty men were employed in the Heydt bakery," says this unionist. "Thirty-four of them were bakers and the rest helpers. Oven hands received from $12 to $16 a week; bench hands, $10 to $12; dough mixers, $16; bench foremen, $18, and helpers received from $8 to $9 a week. These wages are from $2 to $4 below the union scale for eight hours."

ALIENS MUST CEASE WORK.

New York, March 6.—Orders of the General Contractors' association, representing 45 firms employed on the new Pennsylvania railroad tunnels, are being announce that only American citizens will be employed pending a decision of the Third circuit court of appeals on the ruling by the court of appeals that the state law forbidding the employment of aliens on contract work is constitutional.

BAKERY LICENSE DEFEATED.

Boston, March 6.—The house of representatives rejected a bill to provide that bakeries shall be established only in this city shall be licensed by the board of health. One advocate of the measure declared that the element of "dead trash" of these places and told of one bakery in which a rat was found in a barrel in bread in order to make the loaves weigh more.

TO ORGANIZE WOMEN.

San Francisco, March 6.—At the seventh annual convention of district council, No. 5, Retail Clerks' International Protective association, it was decided to inaugurate a campaign of organization among women clerks. An effort will be made to establish a label for union made and working agreement for all clerks in California.